

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00
	DS-00	VC-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	VCE-00
	AC-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	OMB-00	NIMA-00	PA-00	MCC-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	FMPC-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	IIP-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00
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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8365
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY
HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY
NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
USINT HAVANA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 003506

NSC FOR CBARTON
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD
STATE PASS USAID FOR DCHA/OTI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/16/2014
TAGS: PGOV, KDEM, PHUM, VE
SUBJECT: CHAVISTAS AT THE HELM IN A SEA OF RED

REF: A. CARACAS 3432
B. CARACAS 3382
C. CARACAS 3431
D. CARACAS 3368

Classified By: Abelardo A. Arias, Political Counselor,
for Reasons 1.4(b).

Summary

1. (C) October and August electoral successes have renewed President Hugo Chavez's mandate, placed his loyalists in most of the governorships and key mayoralities, and positioned the Chavista movement to capture an overwhelming majority in next year's National Assembly elections. Chavez supporters say that, with the opposition atomized and oil prices sky high, they have few excuses for not advancing the Bolivarian

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: APPEALS REVIEW PANEL
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 15 NOV 2024
APPEAL ACTION: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELEASED
REASON(S): B1, 1.4(D)
DATE/CASE ID: 30 JUN 2005 200404750

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: MELVIN E SINN
DATE/CASE ID: 30 JUN 2005 200404750

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Revolution. Chavez has denounced an inefficient and corrupt bureaucracy as the reason benefits are not reaching people. Pro-Chavez governors, many of them ex-military, are calling for radical overhauls of state governments, including the rapid integration of GOV "mission" programs into previously opposition-controlled areas.

End Summary.

Bolivarian Expansion

2. (C) With President Hugo Chavez's victory in the August 15 recall referendum and the subsequent sweep by his candidates of the October 31 gubernatorial and mayoral elections, Chavez now dominates government in Venezuela (refs a and b). Nine of the 23 governors are retired military officers with ties to Chavez. In addition, the executive continues to exercise controlling influence over Venezuela's other branches of government. With opposition political parties beaten 59-41% in the referendum and 63-37% in the regional elections, the Chavistas' prospects for next year's National Assembly elections are favorable.

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No More Excuses

3. (C) Chavez has called for sobriety in the wake of the regional elections victory. He told the newly elected officials on November 1 it was time to close ranks and fight to the death against corruption, bureaucracy, and inefficiency, "three vices that threaten the Bolivarian Revolution." Chavez emphasized the point by adding "the greatest enemy of the revolution is no longer the U.S., it is bureaucracy." Vice President Jose Vicente Rangel said on November 5 that now there are no excuses not to govern. Opposition voices immediately seized on the GOV message, suggesting Rangel was admitting that Chavez had not governed for the last five years. Chavez and other GOV leaders have stated that they must try to win over the four million persons who voted for the opposition. Christian Democrat (COPEI) Deputy Cesar Perez Vivas told reporters November 5 that governance was now the exclusive responsibility of the

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MVR, adding that no type of hegemony is healthy for any society. Rangel noted that "to govern without an opposition is the most annoying thing in the world," and called for new leadership from within the opposition "capable of dialogue with the government."

Change is Good

4. (C) The "three vices" -- corruption, bureaucracy, and inefficiency -- have become the mantra for the newly elected pro-Chavez governors and mayors. Upon taking office, most denounced their predecessors for alleged administrative irregularities. In Miranda State, for example, Governor

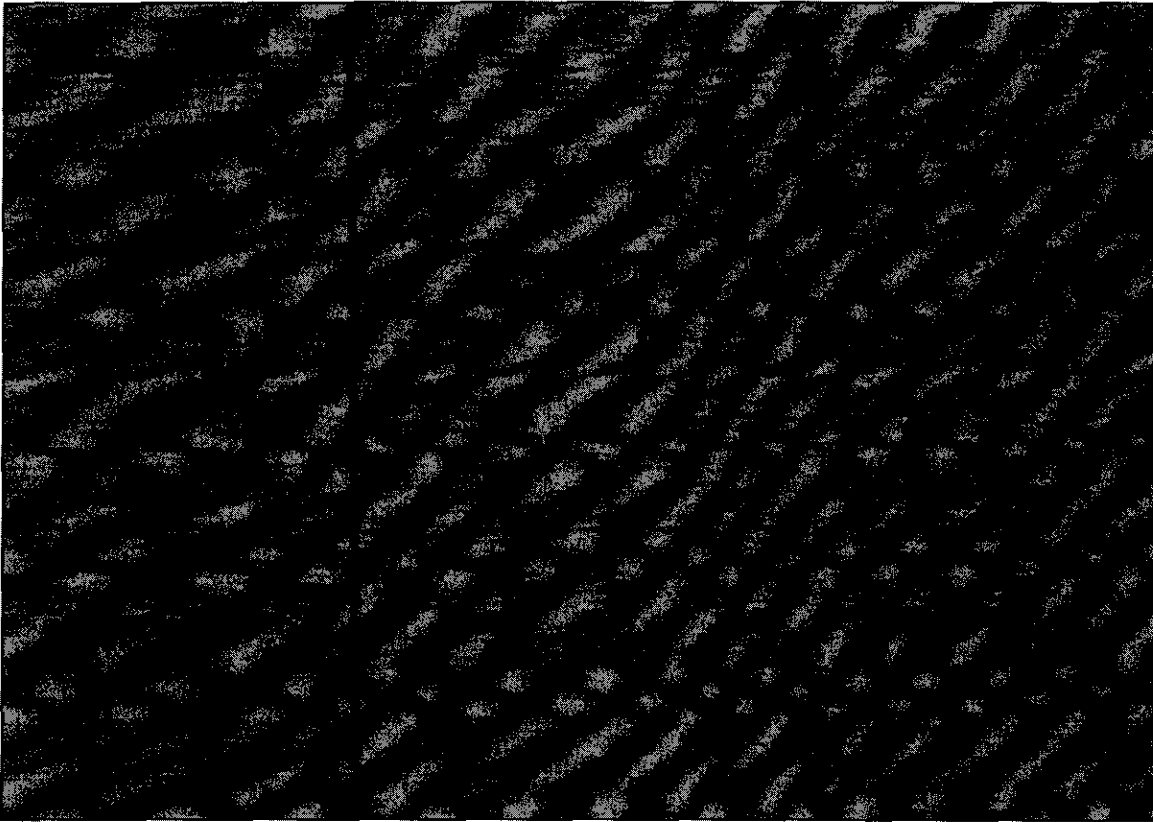
Diosdado Cabello declared the health and education sectors to be in a state of emergency. Cabello's supporters on Miranda State's legislative council told reporters they are considering granting Cabello power to legislate by decree. Patria Para Todos (PPT), the third largest pro-Chavez party, has staked out its role as the GOV conscience.



5. (U) Pro-Chavez elected leaders in previously held opposition areas are rushing to integrate the GOV's various "mission" programs into state and local government plans. In Metropolitan Caracas, for example, officials plan to convert existing public health clinics into outpatient care offices of Barrio Adentro, the medical assistance program operated by Cuban personnel in poor neighborhoods. One of the first acts in office of Monagas State Governor Jose Gregorio Briceno was to invite the Cuban doctors of Barrio Adentro into all state hospitals and clinics, asserting that "exclusion and stinginess" had ended in his state. In Miranda, state officials announced that all state schools would be integrated into the "Bolivarian School" program, which reportedly adds a revolutionary slant to subject matter. The officials also announced that school facilities would soon be opened to Missions Robinson and Rivas (primary and secondary

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education for adults).



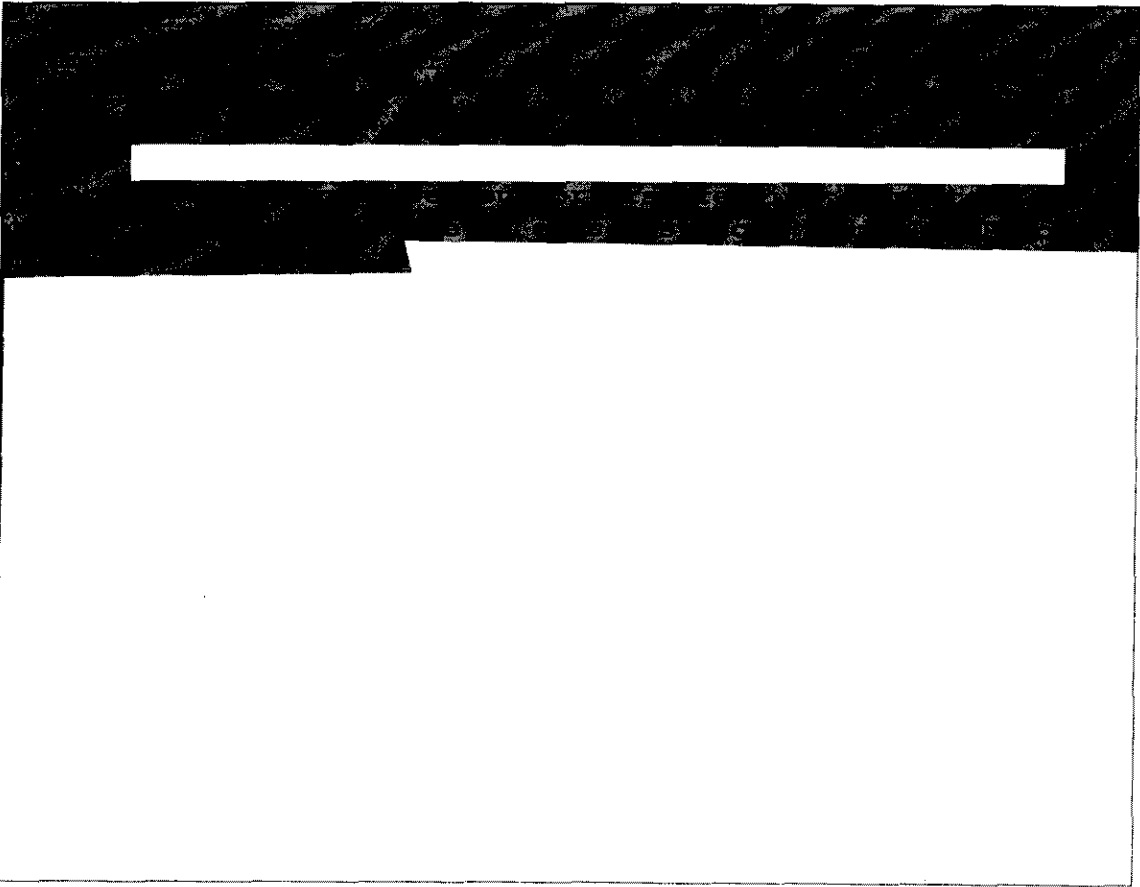
Chavez Lays It Out

7. (U) In an interview aired on state television on November 11, Chavez spelled out the lines his government after the August and October victories. Quoted in the pro-GOV daily Diario Vea, Chavez said the Bolivarian Revolution would have:

- strengthened popular organizations, such as the "electoral patrols" and "electoral battle units";
- new GOV institutions with social dimensions, such as the new Popular Economy Ministry;
- a humanistic "social economy" transcending the "perverse" capitalist model;
- increased production through "endogenous hubs";
- a multipolar foreign policy, accelerated with Chavez's upcoming visits to Spain, Russia, China, and Iran;
- development of a new military structure;
- an electoral strategy in which pro-government political parties should elect their candidates;
- the creation of a new "Anticorruption Moral Power"; and
- a more efficient communications strategy incorporating

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community broadcasters.



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